

## COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

# Mercer County

Illinois · Aledo · FIPS 17131 · Population 15,292 · Crosodo  
Index #2903\*

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STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
—	Great	—	MEDIUM	

**IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

**Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

ILLINOIS: MERCER COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2903\* · FIPS 17131 · Aledo

# Mercer County

Population 15,292 · State baseline: — · **MEDIUM**

### QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

—

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

—

PETS ALLOWED?

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

—

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

—

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

—

### Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED —

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN —

PET RESTRICTIONS —

WATER SUPPLY —

HANDWASHING —

FOOD STORAGE —

### Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED —

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT —

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE —

### Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP —

ON-SITE SIGNAGE —

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES —

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME —

**RESEARCH NOTES**

No county-specific cottage food ordinance found that overrides state law. Illinois 410 ILCS 625/4 preempts local rules inconsistent with state law (2022 PA 102-0633 and 2025 PA 103-0903 amendments). Local zoning may regulate signage, customer traffic, and parking at home sales locations but cannot prohibit or restrict allowed foods/venues inconsistently with state law. Registration required with local county health department (up to \$50/year); CFPM-level food safety certificate required. No sales cap. Defaulting to state baseline.

**SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME**

**Questions?** Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/mercercounty-discuss>

## State context — Illinois cottage food law

Mercer County's rules sit on top of Illinois's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

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<b>STATUTE</b> 410 ILCS 625/4 (Food Handling Regulation Enforcement Act, §4)	<b>ANNUAL SALES CAP</b> —
<b>REGISTRATION REQUIRED</b> Yes	<b>FOOD HANDLER CERT</b> Yes (specific course)
<b>KITCHEN INSPECTION</b> Upon-complaint	<b>DIRECT SALES ONLY</b> Yes
<b>INDIRECT SALES</b> No — Illinois prohibits sales to restaurants, retail stores, and wholesale; direct in-state sales are allowed anywhere including home, online, farmers markets, events, and roadside stands; non-perishable items may be shipped within Illinois only.	

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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Illinois cottage food law report](#).

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### STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2625&ChapterID=35>

State dept cottage food page: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/food-safety/cottage-food.html>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/illinois/>

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## Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Mercer County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/illinois/mercer-county-discuss>

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